



BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2015

Meeting. The Board of Corrections met September 4, 2015, at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women (ICIW) at Mitchellville. Warden Patti Wachtendorf welcomed the Board and guests. She indicated the Administration Building has been occupied for two years. The offenders will be in the new housing units for two years beginning in January 2016. Construction is being completed on Building P. This building has program space, such as the library, gymnasium, classrooms, and vocational training space. The population at the ICIW is 705 offenders. Four housing units are closed due to construction and staffing issues, so approximately 200 beds are not available. Overcrowding is problematic.

Landscaping. The Department of Corrections ([DOC](#)) and ICIW staff and offenders worked with Iowa State University ([ISU](#)) to plan and implement landscaping unique to ICIW. Students from ISU presented information to the Board on the planning and implementation process. The landscaping includes a production garden, outdoor classrooms, and a healing garden by the hospital.

DOC Director's Report. Director Jerry Bartruff recognized Warden Nick Ludwick and staff at the Iowa State Penitentiary (ISP) at Fort Madison. The maximum-security offenders were moved to the new prison on August 1, 2015. Since the move, the number and severity of Critical Incident Reports decreased dramatically. The leadership and staff training helped to develop a new attitude about working in a maximum security prison. Director Bartruff attended an Association of State Correctional Administrators ([ASCA](#)) meeting in Indianapolis in August. Director Bartruff indicated Mr. John Baldwin, former Director of the Iowa DOC, has accepted the position as Director of the Illinois Department of Corrections. Director Bartruff presented information at the ASCA meeting on the use of offender mentors for mentally ill inmates. Departments of Corrections across the country are focused on reducing the use of solitary confinement and restrictive housing. Offenders in these types of housing units experience mental health challenges. The Iowa DOC has reduced its use of restrictive housing by approximately 25.0%. The Director indicated the creation of a protective custody housing unit would permit these offenders to be held in less restrictive housing. Director Bartruff and DOC Director of Research Lettie Prell attended a Results First meeting in Washington, D.C. The DOC continues to focus on return on investment.

FY 2016 Budget. Director Bartruff updated the Board on the General Fund operating budget. The General Assembly provided increases in General Fund appropriations as follows:

- \$600,000 for support costs at the ICIW.
- \$750,000 for pharmacy costs at the Iowa Medical Classification Center (IMCC) at Oakdale.
- \$195,000 to replace expired federal funds for Adult Drug Courts in five of the eight Community-Based Corrections (CBC) District Departments.
- \$707,000 to maintain current service levels at the Fifth CBC District Department.
- \$750,000 to maintain current service levels at the ISP at Fort Madison.

FY 2017 Budget. Director Bartruff presented the FY 2017 budget proposal. The budget is status quo and represents no change in current funding. The Board approved the FY 2017 budget request at the current funding level of \$381.7 million. The Board will provide a letter to the Governor in support for additional items, contingent upon funds being available, to include increases of:

- \$79,000 for support costs at the ICIW at Mitchellville.
- \$1.3 million for pharmacy costs at the IMCC at Oakdale.
- \$565,000 to replace expired federal grants in the CBC District Departments.
- \$2.0 million to cover shared expenses formerly funded by General Fund appropriations to the Department of Human Services (DHS) for operating the Mental Health Institutes (MHIs) at Clarinda and Mount Pleasant.

- \$750,000 for county confinement costs to reimburse counties for holding alleged violators of parole and work release in county jails until a hearing is held.

The Board approved the capital budget request of \$105.1 million across five years, beginning with \$52.3 million in FY 2017. Projects include CBC residential facility replacements and upgrades, kitchen and visiting room replacement and expansion at the Clarinda Correctional Facility, critical life safety projects at the Anamosa State Penitentiary, deferred maintenance, and technology projects.

Board Budget Discussion. The Board discussed funding for Adult Drug Courts. The Fourth CBC District is ending its program, while the Eighth CBC District Department may end its program. Director Bartruff and staff responded that this is a prison-diversion program for high-risk offenders. A cost-benefit analysis indicates drug courts are effective; however, they are expensive. About 54 offenders graduate at the end of an 18-month program; this caseload is staffed by two Parole/Probation Officers (PPOs). A large number of moderate- to high-risk offenders could be served with a similar amount of resources and also achieve recidivism reduction. The Board questioned minority representation within the Adult Drug Courts. Staff responded that minority offenders are under-served in the Adult Drug Courts. An alternative is the One-Stop Reentry programs in Waterloo and Des Moines that have reduced recidivism of African American offenders. The Board also discussed the locking system at the Anamosa State Penitentiary.

Wardens. Director Bartruff indicated that the warden positions are vacant at Mount Pleasant and Anamosa due to retirements, and at IMCC at Oakdale with the promotion of Dan Craig to Deputy Director. The Board approved the transfer of Warden Jim McKinney from the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility to the IMCC at Oakdale, and the transfer of Warden Kris Weitzell from the Clarinda to the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility. Board member Larry Kudej will serve on the interview panels to fill the warden vacancies at Anamosa, Clarinda, and Mount Pleasant.

Legislative Agenda. Ms. Lettie Prell presented the DOC legislative proposals to the Board. These include:

- Amend Iowa Code section [905.11](#) to grant flexibility to the CBC District Departments and Board of Parole in residential facility placements for offenders sentenced under Iowa Code section [902.12](#).
- Amend Iowa Code section [904.809](#) to allow the remaining balance after all deductions from inmate wages for offenders working in the private sector programs to be retained by the DOC to fund vocational education programs. Under current law, this money is deposited in the State General Fund. Based on a five-year history of receipts, the fiscal impact is estimated to be a reduction of \$600,000 in miscellaneous receipts to the State General Fund.
- Amend Iowa Code sections [904.203](#), [904.204](#), [904.205](#), and [904.206](#) by striking the sections. These Institutions are already listed in Iowa Code section [904.102](#).
- Amend Iowa Code section [904.207](#) to permit, rather than require, the DOC to operate a Violator Facility. Currently, there is no Violator Facility operated by the DOC.

The Board approved the proposals as presented.

Results First 2015. Ms. Lettie Prell informed the Board that Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) has a large return on investment. It is relatively inexpensive to provide this treatment to offenders. It has been shown to reduce recidivism. The DOC is providing staff training on CBT. The DOC led the implementation of the Results First model in Iowa in 2011/2012. The Public Safety Advisory Board ([PSAB](#)) endorsed the model and approved the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Division ([CJJPD](#)) to house and manage the model. The DOC is working with the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative to help the CJJPD take over administration of the model. This econometrics model is much more sophisticated than when it was first introduced in Iowa in 2011.

State Recidivism Reduction Initiative (SRRI). Ms. Beth Skinner and Ms. Lettie Prell provided information to the Board regarding SRRI. This initiative is funded by a \$3.0 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs through the [Bureau of Justice Assistance](#) for three years. The Governor and the DOC are hosting a summit September 22 in Des Moines. [Department of Management](#) Director David Roederer will be the keynote speaker while Board of Corrections member

Dr. Mary Chapman will be a presenter. The statewide steering committee will meet September 25 in Des Moines. The SSRI Quality Assurance Committee is currently focusing on quality assurance in the use of static and dynamic risk assessments, case plans, reentry process, and programs.

Clothing Redesign. Iowa Prison Industries ([IPI](#)) worked with ISU students and women offenders at the ICIW at Mitchellville to redesign the offenders' clothing. They used the LEAN process from private sector industry to improve efficiencies in production processes. The clothing uses more material but can be produced at the current price with a better fit.

Public Comment. Jean Basinger, Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants ([CURE](#)), expressed concern that the DOC appears to be phasing out victim impact panels in the Institutions. The DOC agreed to address this topic at the next Board meeting.

Next Meeting. The Board of Corrections is scheduled to meet October 2, 2015, at the DOC Central Office in Des Moines. Additional information is available on the DOC website at: <http://www.doc.state.ia.us/>.

STAFF CONTACT: Beth Lenstra (515-281-6301) beth.lenstra@legis.iowa.gov